



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JUNE 2014 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 6

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# Misguided welfare reform initiative will increase shelter need



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

State representative Tom McMillin (R-Rochester) recently introduced House Bill 5536 to the Michigan Legislature to replace cash assistance to welfare recipients with direct payments to landlords, utilities and grocery stores. The bill's intent is ensuring that the money is spent on basic needs.

Putting aside the measure's arguably insulting implications and demonization of the poor, there are practical considerations that I doubt McMillin or his co-sponsors have ever considered.

Those receiving cash assistance have often reached a point where their credit

rating has been destroyed and they are unable to find a landlord willing to rent to them. Instead, they have to find friends and relatives who will rent part of their place to them. It is unlikely the state would recognize the legitimacy of these rent payments. In fact, the Department of Social Services has terminated SNAP (food stamp) benefits to hundreds of qualified recipients in our area because it refuses to recognize non-lease sheltering payments as legitimate expenses.

Even if the government did recognize these payments, these informal arrangements are often fragile and transitory, operating on a cash-up-front basis. Experience with state payments for child care subsidies have shown that the state takes weeks, at best, to approve and make payment adjustments. One

need look no further than the foster care system to see that existing resources are inadequate for investigation and oversight – even to protect the most vulnerable children. It would be irresponsible to mandate approval for expenditures without having a timely and responsive approval mechanism in place.

McMillin's bill requires direct-payment vendor programs for rent, utilities and child care. Assistance recipients will have to use landlords and child-care providers registered with the state. This will further deplete the scant pool of providers willing to work with economically fragile families, whose job opportunities are often limited to a patchwork of part-time work on evenings and weekends.

This bill should not receive any serious consideration – certainly not until the state has registered a sufficient number of providers to meet the current need in all geographic areas of the state. In all likelihood, that will necessitate building more publicly-regulated affordable housing units, which the state has neglected to construct over the past 60 years.

It is curious that the same people calling for greater state control in cash assistance allocation are those who call for smaller state government and privatization of prisons and schools. The logical conclusion is that, rather than the loathed state bureaucrats, they expect private industries to oversee these payments, incentivized to further reduce those eligible for cash assistance. Widespread misery will be the result.

## The commissioners let us down

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka "Lit"  
Groundcover Vendor #132

The momentum was up in April, but any hopes for extending the Warming Center died down before the end of the month. When I wrote an article in Groundcover's May issue, I was confident and elated that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners would continue to meet with members of our delegation from Delonis to search for solutions to emergency housing. I personally was surprised, if not shocked, when the Commissioners announced that they were satisfied with the way things were going.

Our delegation listened in dismay as the commissioners virtually closed the door to any discussions, announcing that they were pleased with the current role that Delonis has played to provide shelter for the homeless in the community. With that statement from commissioner Ronnie Peterson, dozens of individuals were once again forced out of doors.

This is typical of any group of individuals not experiencing homelessness, or speaking without any voices from the homeless community. As homeless individuals, we see the problem of sleeping outdoors as an urgent one, and feel that any governmental body should approach it that way.

While many homeless individuals struggle with drug and alcohol addictions, as well as mental illnesses, there are others who are just plain sick. Living outside, especially in balmy weather, produces illnesses and exacerbates existing ones. We are spared from these dangers only because of a Supreme Being sending guardian angels. One camper told me that he moved his

tent a day before the tornado warning. Had he not, a huge fallen tree would have landed on it during the storm.

There is no question that there are resources in the community to give people a roof over their heads, but there seems to be a dearth in willingness to keep this problem at the forefront.

The delegation from Delonis worked hard to try to prevent this from happening, but in the long run, the default response was to stop discussions. If this is the way the commissioners believe that homelessness will end, they not only lack fortitude, but insight as well.

## GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

*Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*

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## Thirst for exuberance



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell  
Groundcover Contributor

Spring has been slow to unfold. Yes, the polar vortex with its encore appearances has retreated into the past tense, but I wore fingerless mitts this week more than once. There was the morning I awoke to snow. And there were threats of an overnight freeze.

While visiting my younger daughter Molly in Chicago a couple days ago, I watched window washers in harnesses high up on a building across the Chicago River. I'm sure they were taking care of a regularly-scheduled spring cleaning time, but the temperatures were in the 30s, and a driving rain was falling. It seems we haven't yet shaken

out all the remnants of a long winter. Cold rain, high prairie winds, and gray skies have way outnumbered the days of warmth that simply seem to draw the green right out of the earth. Part of the experience of spring is an exuberance of growth and possibility. That exuberance has been periodic and rather reticent this season.

During my recent Chicago visit, Molly and I went to the Cadillac Palace Theatre for a performance of *Mamma Mia!* during its brief one-week run in the city. We saw it before a decade ago. It was time again to have our fill of its crazy plotline, infectious music, and non-stop dancing. What a great antidote to the weather! The theater was awash in exuberance.

As we were all squeezing our way in the doors to get to our seats, I struck up a conversation with a family that included three young girls, one of whose joy

was electric. When I asked if she was excited, her mom replied that she knew all the songs and we would hear her singing no matter where we sat in the theater. Her postscript was about how their oldest child was missing soccer practice, and that was a *big deal*.

We climbed up the stairs and made our way to our balcony seats. As I sat down, the woman next to me extended a friendly smile. I turned to speak to her, and her middle-aged daughter explained that she didn't speak any English. She added that it didn't matter. Her mother had seen the movie version of *Mamma Mia!* and she loved it. I inquired about their home countries. It turns out the daughter lives in Mexico, and her mother in Ecuador. As luck would have it, I spent some time in Ecuador 10 years ago, just after I saw *Mamma Mia!* the first time. I was there to visit my older daughter, Amanda, who was living and studying in Quito.

With her daughter as a translator, my theater neighbor and I were able to converse about places in Ecuador we both knew. And her daughter was right. No language barrier blocked her mother's full delight with the show.

The official performance was followed by the most generous curtain call I have ever experienced. Three or four repeated favorite songs with energetic choreography lit up the stage. Everyone in the audience was on their feet, dancing and singing. We all took in a big gulp of exuberance and believed for a moment that we indeed were just 17 and the dancing queens.

We exited the theater into an unusually cold Chicago night for mid-May. People continued to dance and sing their way up and down the street toward a taxi, train stop, or waiting car. It was a night of welcome exuberance.

## Father's Day

by Diana Creel Elarde

Originally published in *Thrive Detroit*, June 2014

I check my watch, weighing the time. Just enough minutes to get in my morning walk before I have to shower and leave to get my mother. Once outside, I see the crowd gathering in the park down the street. I approach the park and see people in their running outfits, preparing for a race of some sort.

I find a flyer on a pole. It reads: *Support our Father's Day Run, our fathers are important!*

Ah, Father's Day. I had tried all week to erase it from my mind. I went out of my way to ignore the cards in the stores, the ads on TV, and, most of all, the dull ache in my heart. It is my first Father's Day without my father, and I struggle to find where this celebration now exists within me.

Today I will take my mother to the cemetery, the last place we honored his life. We will stand side-by-side at his grave, not knowing now how to celebrate him, still confused and saddened by the roles we are forced to play now that he has passed.

I look at the pack of runners, all anxious to begin. Fathers hold hands with smaller children, getting them excited to start. I tried to explain to my husband this week about the fathers who meet in shops and at the farmer's market with their kids in tow. Early on Saturday mornings, I see children leaving coffee shops with hot chocolate mustaches, sipping their way down the



street, steps behind Dad and the stroller. The fathers stuff the strollers with their purchases from the farmer's market, arranging a head of lettuce next to a small child. They stand in groups, watching their kids throw pennies into the park fountain. I marvel at their level of involvement, their overall enjoyment of spending time with their children. I love to sit in the park and watch their interactions.

My dad was like that, but when I was a child, that was rare. Most of my friends didn't see much of their fathers, who were off doing business, or golfing, or at events far from appropriate for a small, young companion.

One of my fondest memories is of a day when I must have been about seven. My father took me to the University of Michigan. He held my hand as we walked, and I felt so important, happy that my father had decided to take me

with him for the day. Surprisingly, I still recognize the building we went to, its street, its location. To this day, that building still evokes a special feeling of how impactful that moment was to me.

And now, what of my time with my

father? I struggle to know how to define it, to understand it now. Confused by what was between us. The times when I was his young daughter, the days when he was "Dad." And then, the dark days – the hardness, the anger his illness created in his last few years. So many difficult sick days, marked in sadness, in stress. Long nights in the ER, and such exhaustion. Helpless times when his breath was short, shallow, scary. Days before his illness merged with his sick days, hard to separate, to accommodate. All too fresh, too painful to think of or sort out. "Time," I tell myself like a silent prayer, "just give it time; the good memories will win over." But on this day, this first Father's Day without my dad, I just do what I can to get by.

Source: [thrivedetroit.net](http://thrivedetroit.net)

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## Dispute Resolution Center restores equilibrium

by Susan Beckett

"I grew up in chaos on the mean streets of Detroit," said Belinda Dulin, executive director of the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC), at the March 30 Inter-faith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ)-sponsored program "Practicing Restorative Justice." She went on to assert that the people who most need restorative justice are those who, like her, grew up in chaos.

Restorative justice, a group problem-solving technique that emphasizes a return to wholeness for both the principal actors in a dispute and the surrounding community, is but the latest program of the DRC.

The DRC was formed in 1983 by attorneys who wanted alternatives to the traditional court setup for family and neighborhood lawsuits. Just four years later, the Michigan Supreme Court declared dispute resolution an acceptable legal alternative. Once the DRC was granted tax-exempt status, state courts supplied some funding and started referring cases from Washtenaw County and some of Livingston County.

Only those cases in which all parties involved, including the judge and attorneys, agree to the process can be referred for dispute resolution. According to Dulin, most DRC cases are about peeling back the layers and getting to the core issues. For example, one dispute between apartment neighbors over noise levels pitted a young couple against an elderly woman. At the core, the woman was upset that her younger neighbors' lifestyle was so busy that there was no opportunity to develop a relationship with them like that she had had with their predecessors. As a result, she felt isolated and alone. She was set to sue the couple when the case was redirected to the DRC. After talking it out, the couple agreed to check in with her regularly and make an extra effort to come and go quietly.

To date, most of the DRC's cases involve divorces, family disputes, and neighborhood nuisance suits. However, now that Judge Timothy Connors presides over the Peace Court in Washtenaw County, the range of cases that can be addressed using restorative justice techniques is expanding.

A demonstration of the technique was provided at the ICPJ program by Mary Miller, Kate Warner and other community activists who have been traveling the state to promote Victim-Offender Conferencing and other restorative justice practices. They presented a staged reading of the story of a woman whose house had been burgled and vandalized by a group of teenage boys, one of whom did not manage to get away with the others.



Kalli Smith, an Ypsilanti Community High Student, at a Peer Mediation training sponsored by the Dispute Resolution Center.

Gathered in a circle were the restorative justice counselor, the constable, the homeowner and her brother, the boy, and his divorced mother. The boy was soon caught in a lie and was reminded of his promise to be truthful. His mother revealed she had insisted that her son not reveal a similar incident from when he was 12 because she feared losing her job if he was convicted, and because they had learned to say little around angry men, as her ex-husband had been abusive. The boy came clean and admitted that he had been the ringleader of a group of boys looking for action. He patterned the crime on the similar escapade led by his cousin several years earlier, and targeted the woman's house because he knew she left her basement window open. The homeowner revealed that she had been so traumatized by ominous graffiti and the break-in incident that she'd had to stay with her brother ever since, afraid to return. She also told them that her father's war medals, which were stolen, were precious to her. The boy apologized for scaring her and let her know that he and his companions had only painted the words on her wall because they thought they looked cool, and that there was no aggressive sentiment behind them. He also told her he knew where the medals were, and subsequently returned them. In the following weeks, per their agreement, he repainted the walls and paid her \$400 from his delivery job.

The scenario above illustrates several of the advantages of this approach:

- the victim was able to find out why she was violated and ascertain the likelihood of another incident
- the perpetrator learned how his actions wounded another human being

- the perpetrator made amends in a way that undid much of his original damage

In a less-obvious result of the program, deep relationships were formed. The homeowner asked the boy to keep up his grades and share them with her. He did so, and when he graduated from high school, he thanked her for her continued interest in him.

The DRC now runs a program in Ypsilanti Community High School (YCHS), where resolution circles address incidents for which students might otherwise be suspended. The people involved, including teachers, classmates and the principal, talk about what happened from their point of view and how they were affected. There has been a dramatic reduction in suspensions since the program started in 2012. Just three years ago, Ypsilanti High School had three times as many out-of-school suspensions as it had students.

There is a resolution center in the school, staffed by volunteers and program director Keely Kaleski, where students involved in a perceived conflict can stop by and get help in working it out. Bullying, teasing and social slights fuel most of these concerns, and they are explored and resolved through peacemaking circles.

Kaleski recalled an incident in which lunch-line roughhousing led to the accidental injury of a student, which, in the past, would have resulted in suspensions. Instead, all parties agreed to a peacemaking circle. During the intake interview that preceded the decision to proceed with the circle, one of the rough-housers said, "I don't see what the big deal is."

see RESOLUTION, page 11



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## Riddle me this: unpuzzling the reality of homelessness

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka “Lit”

Homelessness has become a conundrum that seems to puzzle the government, agencies, churches, and individuals. While each looks to the other for answers, time and again they come up short for solutions. I have found that even family members and friends treat the problem as a huge enigma for which one must strain oneself to find answers. For instance, since I have experienced homelessness, I have a brother who has posted pictures on my Facebook page of little houses that could provide a home for homeless individuals. I have had other relatives and friends post photos of success stories or stark faces of someone living on the streets.

None of them seem to see how I am struggling day-to-day or offer any assistance or advice for me as an individual. And that is where the one of the core issues of homelessness lies. Perhaps people are afraid because of the stories that persist of alcoholism, mental illness, and drug addictions. While these stories are true, it would be wise to update one's homeless I.Q. and see how the perceptions jive with the realities.

### A Super Birthday

Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka “Lit”

Despite the stories of doom and gloom surrounding the issues of homelessness, there are some bright moments. I am having one right now.

After having lived on the streets for over a year, I have an opportunity to get into a more stable living environment. I have not slept in a bed for nearly 15 months, nor have I had a place where I can prepare a meal and sit down to eat. Ironically, it is all changing on the weekend of my birthday. As I turn 57 years old, I see that the number is doubled in that I was born in the year of 1957 – fifty-seven *deuce*. It seems as though all of the stars aligned to make something wonderful happen for me this month.

Would it were that simple. In retrospect, I understand that it did not happen on its own. Someone had an idea to make a street publication which provides an income to those on the street and beyond, and to keep the general public in the know about the experiences and challenges of those of us whose economic circumstances have been dealt a blow during life. Groundcover News, which is part of a larger group of street newspapers nationwide, is designed to report relevant news from the street and afford anyone

Increasingly, the middle class is being affected by homelessness. Last month, *The Huffington Post* ran a story which in many ways parallels my own. The woman in the *Huffington Post* article joined the ranks of homelessness along with her two daughters when the teaching job that she had planned on and worked towards never materialized due to budget cuts.

Just three years ago, I was living a comfortable existence and, if not exactly cruising towards retirement, I was feeling confident that I would enter it with relative comfort. I had spent many great years in the classroom discussing issues such as poverty and homelessness and other topics to encourage critical thinking skills in my students. When the huge teacher layoff occurred in Detroit during 2012, I thought I was prepared, but for this there is no preparation.

While we two are certainly no better than those who have faced years of poverty and homelessness, we are at least more salvageable. Bearing an education, a simple substitute teaching job opportunity would have given me at least rung on the ladder to pull myself up. However, being homeless was an

needing a ready income the opportunity to own an independent business while writing for and selling the paper.

Groundcover has grown progressively in Washtenaw County over four years. Susan Beckett introduced it to Ann Arbor following the blueprint of other street newspapers. All of this combined has enabled me to have hope that I can emerge from my challenging circumstances. Personally, through selling Groundcover, I have learned patience and discipline. I feel that I am the writer that I always wanted to be, and I am building a base of customers who know and support me. It is, after all, a business – which means that I need to adhere to deadlines and follow rules and guidelines, and I set daily sales quotas for myself.

I have the opportunity to meet with wonderful people who have genuine concern about the issues regarding homelessness. When people ask me if I am looking for a teaching job, I respond that my new job will be teaching others about the effects of poverty and homelessness in America. I will continue writing about how we can all work together to put homelessness in the past. Groundcover has offered me the opportunity to get my new life underway.

impediment.

To many, we are *homeless* and we come with all of the connotations that the word implies. If someone like me with not only an education, but years of professional experience, has to face insurmountable obstacles to employment and housing, imagine what a person with a felony or drug record encounters. As I bear witness to those who have stumbled and fallen due to drug addictions or alcoholism, I am determined to one day use my skills become an advocate for their lost voices.

Until we begin to see homelessness as

everyone's problem and not some distant, vague idea wherein we relegate people into obscure existence of abandonment, the problem will persist. Gone are the days when we can point fingers and hope that one agency, individual, or group can do it all. We were once only one paycheck away from homelessness, but history has taught us that we are perhaps one life event away from it. What this experience has taught me more than any other is that we need to engage with one another (regardless of our place in life) and find solutions to assist each other before we all land together in one big heap of disaster.

## Is She Woman?

by Shawn Story

Groundcover Vendor #42

As she walks into the room, legs moving in unison, heels making their own music, her smells of flowers and spices, skin flawless as silk, her glow bright like the sun, and you ask: is she woman?

Lady of estate

Mistress of honor

Matron of appearance

Doll of beauty

Girl of wonder

Dame of all and you ask is she woman?

Why shouldn't she walk the stage, she there for the showing, art is her makeup, she there for the touch and you ask is she woman?

“Women should love themselves with proper conduct, modesty, and self-control, not of earthly things.”

**1 Timothy 2:9**



## What is summer in Ann Arbor without some music?

by Lauren Halperin  
U-M Student Contributor

The snow has melted, which means it's time to bring out the Frisbee, crack open a book, and form your summer playlist. Lucky for us music lovers, spring in Ann Arbor has its fair share of music events – and even luckier, a lot of them are free!

“Dance Your Classes Off,” hosted by the University of Michigan’s Contexts for Classics, took place on Tuesday, April 22 in front of one of the most frequented buildings on campus – Angell Hall. Although the event was celebrating the end of the winter semester for the University of Michigan, U-M students were not the only ones in attendance. The audience – or, should I say, dancers – included professors on their way to grade final essays, yogis on their way home from their nighttime Vinyasa class, parents bringing their children for a nighttime activity, and even some passersby, eager to join in the fun.

Angell Hall was transformed into a disco-like dance party, complete with light sculptures, hula hoopers, ballroom dancers, bubble blowers, and laser art projections on the hall’s historic pillars.

Music was provided by Scout, a local DJ, who spun music from on top of a large scaffolding. She gazed upon her dancers like a queen among her minions, commanding the crowd to dance as slowly, quickly, softly, or manically as she desired with the simple change of a song. The audience obliged as they finally let go of the stresses and pressures of a harsh winter and an even harsher winter semester and danced their “classes” off.

Another annual Ann Arbor music event occurred on May 4 in the Water Hill neighborhood, an area bounded by Miller Avenue, Brooks Street, Sunset Road, and the railroad tracks, and named for the prevalence of water-related names of the streets within it.

The Water Hill Music Fest embraces the listeners in community, as neighbors make music for each other on their porches and in their yards. The bands, ranging from jazzy trumpet players to hard-core punk rockers to mellow folk guitarists, play only blocks away from each other. When you are seated on the grass in someone’s backyard, chomping on your burger and drinking your free water listening to one performer, you can still faintly hear another band playing a couple houses down. At Water Hill, you are never left in a lull of silence. It warms the heart.

The event’s convenient timing (Sunday afternoon, from 2-6 p.m.) made it an ideal family event, and I don’t just mean your immediate family. I’m talking about your Ann Arbor family: your college buds, your teachers, your babysitter, and really, anyone in the



neighborhood. This event isn’t just about music (although the music was awesome and plentiful); rather, Water Hill is about being a neighbor – and sharing music and good times with people you love.

Missed these events? Don’t worry! The summer is just getting started, and music events will be happening throughout these upcoming warm months. Check out the **Ann Arbor Summer Festival: Top of the Park (TOP)**, starting June 13 and going nightly until July 6. TOP will showcase some great ticketed performances by the Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Andrew Bird, Robert Cray and Mavis Staples, Trombone Shorty, and many more, and also offers free outdoor concerts and dancing Tuesday through Sunday, including appearances by local favorites The Sun Messengers and Hoodang.

Other musical performances will include **Thursday night concerts in downtown Chelsea** (June 5 - August 14); the **African American Festival** on Fourth Avenue and Ann St. in Ann Arbor (June 7); the **Ann Arbor Street Art Fair** in front of the Bell Tower (July 16-18); the **Manchester Street Festival** (August 2); **Dexter Daze** (August 8-9); **Saline’s Summerfest** (August 8); and the **Ypsilanti Heritage Festival** in Riverside Park (August 15-17).

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## Grand opening of Avalon's Pauline Apartments

by Susan Beckett

At long last, Pauline Apartments are completely rebuilt and housing 32 families. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 16, 2014 drew a huge crowd that included the proud developers, politicians, state bureaucrats, Avalon supporters and some of the tenants. It was hosted in the Pauline Apartments Community Center, which has a five-star energy rating and is largely powered by the solar panels on its roof. The Community Center has a kitchen, laundry facilities, computer access, a garden, a food pantry and a play-

ground. An after-school program for the children will meet in the Community Center.

While there are six one-bedroom units, the vast majority of the 32 apartments are occupied by families. Five of the units are barrier-free and an additional 15 have wheelchair access.

Avalon had planned to refurbish rather than rebuild the apartments, but MSHDA declared them unsalvageable. MSHDA representative Christine Miller was all smiles as visitors toured one of the apartments. Avalon will manage the property and provide supportive services to the residents, thanks in large part to the financial support of the Religious Coalition for Affordable Housing (RAAH).



Avalon executive director Carole McCabe (right) leads the onlookers as Elizabeth Bailey cuts the ribbon officially opening Pauline Apartments. Bailey and her two children were among the first families to move into the apartments, back in December of 2013.

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## Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2014

He's playing music again!!!!

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So what is it with you and that song? You meow in dismay every time he finishes. If you had opposable thumbs you'd be flicking a lighter or lighting up your phone.

His deep soothing voice remind me of purring. And the music is so simple and pure.

You're not the first who fell into a Ring of Fire! It's certainly a classic. At least you have good taste, Mom.



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		4	2	3	5	8		
	9							3
6	4		8	7			1	
3				5				8
	8			2	6		3	9
7								2
		8	5	1	4	3		
					2	9		

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote

“ESW ZWRK ZBKWZI NQ  
CRISNQVEAQ RZW NQUNINDKW  
RQX WFWZMNIW JACWZ LZAG  
DWSNQX ESW IMWQWI.”  
–YBIENMW LWKNF  
LZRQOLBZEWZ

ACROSS

- Sky captain
- Current measurement, for short
- White and noble
- One of the Dutch West Indies
- Scarce
- Host of the annual Sundance Film Festival
- The \_\_\_\_\_*, 1950s TV western and 2013 movie
- Chromosome component
- Portraits of Washington
- Electrical signal interference
- Religious leader
- Wapiti
- Exasperation
- \_\_\_\_\_ away
- Mont Blanc and its neighbors
- Esculent
- Long \_\_\_\_\_
- Countermand
- Be useful
- Entrance permit
- Asian language
- Governor of Connecticut Grasso
- Mediterranean fruit tree
- David Hyde Pierce role
- Occupied a bench
- Break a promise
- Finding \_\_\_\_\_*
- Score high on a test
- Bar \_\_\_\_\_
- Low tide
- Had performed vocally
- Ready for battle
- Animal's cry
- Genealogical diagram
- The \_\_\_\_\_*, 1970s sitcom upon which several big screen and TV movies were based
- Scent
- Of excessive duration
- Become accustomed to
- Wordplays
- Name of a lake or city
- Perplexed

DOWN

- \_\_\_\_\_ Alto
- Blood constituent
- Crescent
- Heavy
- Sticky hydrocarbon
- Tuscan river
- Sorcerers

Vintage TV series / Movie remakes

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
			23	24				25			26			
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			55			56			57		58			
59	60	61			62		63	64			65	66	67	68
69					70						71			
72					73						74			
75					76						77			

- Printer's equipment
- Imperturbable
- The \_\_\_\_\_*, 1960s TV crime drama and 1993 movie
- Member of a list
- Genus of amphibians
- Survivor of the Biblical deluge
- Piece of jewelry
- Scientist's workplace
- Actress Lupino
- Prefer
- Nimble
- Violinist's need
- Formulate
- Fabric
- South American tree
- Fragrant bush
- Gladden
- Connecticut university

- The \_\_\_\_\_*, 1960s super-spy series and 1998 movie
- Cure
- Self
- Blubber
- Make possible
- Mistake
- Major portion
- Discontinue
- Asian language
- Gaseous element
- Third century Persian religious leader
- Razor part
- Burden
- Area of 0.75625 football fields
- Actress Perlman
- Actress Arthur

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcov-

er News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:  
contact@groundcovernews.com  
734-972-0926



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Bethlehem Church is the home of the Ground Cover office.

Sundays:

8:30 am ~ Choir Rehearsal

8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship Services

10:00 am ~ Church School

11:15 am ~ Fellowship Time

Upcoming Events:

June 1<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) at 11:30am

Hot Dog Fundraiser for Mission Trip

June 21<sup>st</sup> (Saturday), 11am -12pm

German Pretzels sales

\$1 each, \$5 half dozen, \$10 dozen



## Dark money and the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment

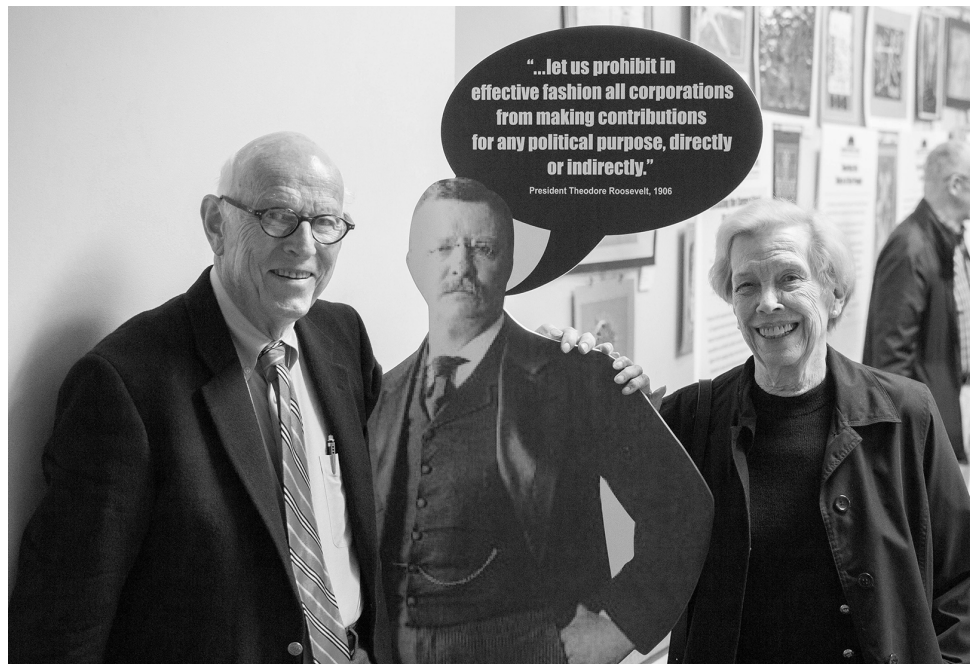
by Susan Beckett

A proposed federal constitutional amendment granting citizens the right to limit campaign financing by defining personhood as an exclusive property of human beings and not of corporations is gaining momentum nationwide. Locally, more than 120 people overflowed the April 29 evening presentation of "Talking Back to the Supreme Court: Citizens v. Citizens United" at Ann Arbor's Mallet's Creek library branch, and many more attended an additional program on the topic the following day at the downtown library.

Both presentations were sponsored by local groups A2Ethics and the Interfaith Partnership for Political Action (IPPA), and featured national expert authors on the subject. University of Michigan professors emeriti Donald Munroe and Robert Oneal contrasted human values (including the desire for respect and the avoidance of shame) to those of corporations (maximizing profit). They examined the actions of companies with local ties, such as Gellman Sciences/Pall Industries and Pfizer. They clearly illustrated the underlying flaw of granting corporate entities human rights, given that their sole legal responsibility is profit-maximization.

Dr. Munroe pointed out that industries have cited the First Amendment right to free speech in order to avoid revealing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in food, the dangers of tobacco, and political contributions, and to suppress discussions of working conditions. He also noted that the Citizens United decision overturned the 1990 Supreme Court ruling in *Austen vs. Michigan Chamber of Commerce* which had upheld our state's right to limit campaign finance contributions.

The background of speaker Robert Monks – former chief administrator of the Office of Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs in the Department of Labor during the Reagan administration, and the founder and CEO of several companies – afforded him with unique perspectives on corporate motivation and the need for and limitations of oversight. He related his realization that it was business-as-usual for the coal company he ran to accept the death of four people each year and the possibility of a gob pile collapse that would kill everyone in the nearby valley. The risk of casualties was not even figured into the cost of the coal, since the majority of the financial loss would be borne by individuals, governments and aid agencies. Repulsed, he left and founded a company that reported on the internal functioning of individual corporations and their impacts on society. It is now part of Governance Metrics International (GMI).



Bob Oneal, one of the event organizers and a panelist, and his wife Zibby surround one of the pieces in the art installation created by A2Ethics for the presentation.

Monks noted that the cost/benefit language of corporations has been insinuated into the language of public policy. The duty of corporations to maximize profits for their shareholders has become a right that trumps the rights of communities and ordinary citizens. The drive for short-term profits without regard for long-term consequences now dominates our markets and policies. Monks contrasted that shift with public policy in Norway, where all the profits from ocean oil extraction are put into a fund for the use of future generations who will not have access to that oil.

Panelists posited that our public policy has been skewed because moneyed interests now have much greater access to public officials than do ordinary citizens. The presentation posed the question, "Should corporations be allowed to continue to make large and secret political donations?"

Speakers cited examples of the effects of large corporate donations. Companies like J.P. Morgan paid token fines for their transgressions in the housing market, while the homeowners unable to pay their mortgages suffered from increased incidence of depression, heart disease and hypertension – in effect, creating subsidies for J.P. Morgan in the form of higher insurance premiums for the public. Duke Energy coal leaked into and coated river bottoms in North Carolina and Virginia, despite years of pleas from local environmental groups to move the storage areas away from the rivers. Property values in the area are expected to plummet, stressing still more homeowners.

Attempts to promote the public good, such as requiring publicly-licensed television stations to make blocks of time available on an equitable basis to all candidates during elections, are

excised by lobbyists influencing committee members before Congress gets a chance to vote on them.

Elected judges' campaigns receive donations from corporations that appear to influence their decisions, as shown in the case *Caperton v. Massey*. The Massey Corporation's CEO, Don Blankenship, created a PAC called For the Sake of the Kids, which donated \$3 million to the campaign of West Virginia Supreme Court appellate judge Brent Benjamin. When Massey appealed the judgment against them in the *Caperton* case, Benjamin refused to recuse himself, and cast the deciding vote in Massey's favor.

According to Jeffrey Clements, author of *Corporations Are Not People: The Definitive Guide to Overturning Citizens United*, we have lost equality in politics. With the *Citizens United* and more recent *McCutcheon* rulings, we are in the endgame of a systematic plan for corporate domination of politics. He cited in his book a March 2013 study from Northwestern University, "Democracy and the Policy Preferences of Wealthy Americans," that concluded that individuals and groups have a near-zero effect on public policy, while the half-of-one-percent comprising the "donor class" do have influence.

Former Justice John Paul Stevens (appointed by Republican President Gerald Ford) echoed the warning in the *Citizens*

*United* dissenting opinion penned by Justice Stephen Breyer (appointed by Democrat Bill Clinton) that the last vestiges of safeguards had just been dismantled, and concluded that the resulting conditions are just wrong. Monks noted in his April 29 presentation that the decision undermines trust in the judicial system, long held to be the arbiter of right and wrong.

A comment from audience member Rolf Berg got to the heart of the issue. He said, "I grew up in Wisconsin listening to William T. Evjue sign off from 'Plain Talk' on WHA Radio with, 'Give the people the truth, and the freedom to discuss it, and all will be well.' This assumes [that] the will of those who have discussed the truth will influence their governance. The 'Democracy and the Policy Preferences of Wealthy Americans' study concluded that this influence is demonstrably negligible. The movement toward an amendment is a fight central to understanding and dealing with all other issues. Resistance to corporate control is so fractured by the innumerable fronts on which we are being beaten back. The lobbyists are there every day, pushing on every front."

Barring another change in the constitutional interpretations of the Supreme Court justices, a constitutional amendment is the only way to strip unwarranted protections from corporations and return the right to regulate elections to the people. The Constitution can be amended only through a constitutional convention called for by

see DARK MONEY, page 11

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## Music benefit for Groundcover organized by Saline High School students

by Greg Hoffman

Groundcover Operations Director

On Friday, May 16, a swarm of high school teens buzzed into the Brewed Awakenings Café in Saline, Michigan. All the tables were filled, and the place was packed to standing room only. So, what drew all these teens? Not a free coffee or sandwich; rather, they gathered to promote social justice in the local community.

Six Saline High School seniors organized a benefit concert for Groundcover News as part of their Senior Capstone Experience class. The gathered group of teens, parents, teachers, and regular customers of Brewed Awakenings enjoyed the tremendous talents of a series of musical acts, performing both popular songs and originals.

All of the performers, broken into six different collaborative acts, were either current Saline High School students or recent graduates of Saline High School. The concert culminated in a performance by Bad Television, a professional, alternative post-rock group.

"It was really great how the bands came out and did it all for free," said performer and event co-organizer Caitlin Ashby.

The Saline High School Senior Capstone Experience, now in its third year, is overseen by Saline teachers Drew Denzin, Jennifer Denzin, and Jeff Pike. According to Drew Denzin, "Our goal was to expand their worldview, starting local in the first trimester, moving to Detroit as the theme in the second, weaving in global issues (human trafficking, water use, social structures) to culminate in a Global Youth Service Day project, like the concert."

Drew noted that, although some students are primarily attracted to the class because it gets the students out of the building through the 60 hours of community service associated with the class, there is a very impactful service-learning component that the students might not expect. Students get to choose the focus of their service



Saline Capstone Group (left to right): Sean Hutfles, Jacob Richards, Groundcover Vendor #22 Shelley DeNeve, Andrew Hornyak, Caitlin Ashby, Sam Coon, and Ben Friman.

project. Some do tutoring in local schools, others volunteer at the Humane Society, while others take the globally-focused route and have gone to Haiti with the non-profit Poured Out.

"The service aspect of the class has allowed our students to get outside the comfort zone of high school, [to] see how big the world really is and the types of problems people face in local and international environments. They learn how to work in teams, with authentic outcomes. They have had their eyes open to the world outside of Saline and outside of Saline High School," said Drew.

The senior student group comprised of Caitlin Ashby, Sam Coon, Ben Friman, Andrew Hornyak, Sean Hutfles, and Jacob Richards – several of whom not only organized the concert, but also performed – chose Groundcover News as the focus of their service project. They became familiar with Groundcover because Andrew has a job in the downtown Ann Arbor area and regularly purchases the newspaper from Groundcover vendors.

"It seems like a really good cause, where you can see your donation going to the folks that need it," said Andrew.

introduced Groundcover News to Saline and the café also made a donation of 10 percent of their sales during the concert," said Ben.

The final result was not only a great concert and social gathering, but also a real outpouring of support for Groundcover News in an area of Washtenaw County where Groundcover is not well-known.

"I was really skeptical in the beginning, so to see such a success was really a good feeling. We raised almost triple of what we anticipated," Sam said.

For us here at Groundcover News, the event served as a warm invitation into the Saline Community, as well as a fantastic example of the power of youth in organizing and social consciousness.

A very special thanks to all the attendees, to the amazing group of student-activist-performers that made this possible, to the teachers and school that had the vision to offer such a capstone course, and to Brewed Awakenings Café's Kim Kaster for graciously hosting the event.

Please visit Groundcover's Facebook page and [www.groundcovernews.org](http://www.groundcovernews.org) for more photos and information about the event.



**Empower a Groundcover vendor with your old but functional smart phone or tablet!**

Email [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com), call 734-707-9210 or drop it off in our office (in the basement of Bethlehem UCC) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. M, W, Th, F



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—MICAH 6:8

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## Dark money, the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment and what we can do about it

continued from page 9

two-thirds of the states or an amendment passed by two-thirds of Congress. In either case, the amendment must then be ratified by three-fourths of the states. Sixteen state legislatures already have passed directives calling for a 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment that eliminates corporate personhood. Vermont recently passed a resolution calling for a Constitutional Convention to “limit the corrupting influence of money in our electoral process,” and 10 other states are considering similar resolutions.

While there are many variations on the proposed amendment, Senate Democrats have promised to schedule a vote this year on the amendment sponsored by Senator Mark Udall (D-NM). Udall’s amendment would specifically authorize Congress and the states to regulate and limit fundraising and spending for candidates for federal office. It would grant the government authority to regulate and limit independent expenditures from outside groups such as super-PACs.

It also would protect future campaign

finance legislation passed by Congress from reversal by the Supreme Court.

As to what we as citizens can do, learning more and speaking out top the list. Monks recommends reading *The Appeal* by John Grisham as an easy introduction to the frailties of our electoral and judicial systems and how corporations manipulate them. Clements’ book *Corporations Are Not People* (reviewed in the February 2014 issue of Groundcover News) and Monks’ *Citizens DisUnited: Passive Investors, Drone CEOs, and the Corporate Capture of the American Dream* provide in-depth information on how our country is being methodically and deliberately transformed into an oligarchy by and for corporate CEOs, or “manager-kings,” as Monks calls them.

We can make it a point to see the 2013 documentary film *Citizen Koch*. This movie about money and politics was commissioned by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), but had its funding terminated when industrialist David Koch, a major contributor to PBS stations in New York and Boston,

expressed his dismay over programming that cast him in a bad light. Funds raised in a Kickstarter campaign financed the completion of the film.

We can demand that our municipalities and state pass resolutions calling for an amendment to the constitution that limits corporate rights and power and enables campaign finance limitations and regulation.

We can use tools like Monk’s GMI to investigate corporations being wooed by our communities, and inform our government if we discover that their past behavior was not socially responsible. We can initiate and participate in shareholder resolutions calling for social responsibility within the companies in which we invest.

We can join national groups such as Move to Amend, Rootstrikers, RepresentUs, and Free Speech for People. We can work with the local group Reclaiming Our American Democracy From Big Money (ROAD), to build the Washtenaw County movement for an amendment.

We can pressure the Securities and Exchange Commission for changes in the generally-accepted accounting rules so that externalized costs – those paid by other segments of society – are included in the corporate bottom-line. Such changes are being piloted by companies participating with the International Integrated Reporting Council.

With our ties to the University of Michigan, we have the opportunity to set a new endowment investment standard that brings the ethics espoused in academia to bear on investment decisions. When Monks spoke at the Frankel Fiduciary Prize Symposium in December 2013, he said, “The only class of owners who don’t have crippling conflicts of interests are universities and foundations.” Referring to the message in his book, *Trusting Harvard*, he continued, “They’re not the biggest shareholders, but they own a lot of money. Because universities have a fiduciary culture of teaching, of instruction, of trying to train ethical behavior, they should take this seriously.”

## Dispute Resolution Center at work in school and community

continued from page 4

After hearing how the injured student’s life had been complicated and how student onlookers had been traumatized, though, he began to see the ripple effects of his actions. He apologized to all concerned and promised to amend his behavior and to avoid disrupting his community in the future. With their permission, Kaleski then phoned the boys’ parents and let them know that their sons had been in trouble but had worked it out, and that they should be proud of how their children took responsibility.

“It’s about respect, empathy, putting our arms around them,” said Kaleski. “There has been a 180-degree turn-around in grades and attendance.”

The onsite mediators at YCHS also run conferences for more serious offenses, helping suspended students reintegrate into the community upon their return. Principals, teachers and students participate in these meetings and pledge various kinds of support; for example, a teacher might tutor during prep time to help the student catch up on missed instruction. Other area school districts now are exploring the possibility of having the DRC set up programs for them.

Facilitators and participants take the lessons of these models back to their own communities, too. Peacemaking circles have been employed to resolve neighborhood disputes at Hamilton Crossing and the Parkridge Community Center, and may be used in the Ypsilanti Housing Commission proper-

ties in the future. DRC trainings (next scheduled for October 2014) prepare community members to mediate and facilitate peacemaking circles. “We have a real hodgepodge of people in our facilitator trainings – [from] attorneys [to] ex-felons” said Dulin.

The DRC also provides traditional mediation. Parents and teens are sometimes referred to the center when a parent goes to court to have their child declared incorrigible and removed from their care. Dulin says that in most cases, normal tensions have gotten out

of control, and stability can be returned as everyone expresses their frustrations and each of the parties offers what they could do differently to reduce the other’s discomfort.

Maintaining group equilibrium is essential to a healthy community. We are fortunate to have an agency in Washtenaw County devoted to harmony in our families, schools, and neighborhoods.

### Volunteer Help Wanted by Groundcover

- Office staff 2–4 hours/week
- Writers
- Ad designers
- Videographers
- Website and social media gurus
- Volunteer coordinator

## Cryptoquote Solution

“The real rulers in Washington are invisible and exercise power from behind the scenes.”

– Justice Felix Frankfurter

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Prosciutto-wrapped Salmon



by Lisa Sonnenburg  
Groundcover Contributor

- 4 salmon fillets (with skin or without – your choice!)
- 4 slices of prosciutto
- ¼ cup mustard (use whatever variety you like – Dijon works well)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. If you prefer, remove the skin from the salmon. Spread mustard evenly on top of each fillet. Wrap each fillet with prosciutto, and ensure that the ends are under the fillet. Place in baking dish or shallow pan and cook for 15 minutes, or until done. Serve with your favorite side dish (I like roasted vegetables!).

Serves 4.

The Man in the Photo is My Dad

by Karen L. Totten  
Groundcover Contributor

He was a dapper dresser, that Tony,  
and quick-witted with the ladies,  
glamorous, nonchalant, a Hollywood smile.  
Next we knew, he’d gone off to the French front,  
scared, though he’d never say so, and  
careful to keep his feet dry, and his rations, too.  
The lousy camp food was somehow the worst.  
Oh how he remembered Lola’s cooking,  
the sweet chocolate silk pies and hazelnut cookies;  
she was a baker more than a chef, and sometimes,  
before the war, they had lunched on thick raisin bread,  
tiny iced petit fours and mousse-filled pastries.  
There he was in a strange country;  
nothing smelled like home  
and no one shared his memories.  
But he held on, day in, day out.  
It wasn’t the bullets that took him.  
When he came home, he didn’t want to talk about it.  
In his head, he heard the gunfire,  
the bombs bursting in air,  
saw the bodies lying around him,  
and the blood, the muck, felt the helplessness of death,  
even in the early afternoon when Lola held his shaking hands,  
even when she offered him slices  
of homemade apple pie.

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